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AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES INFORMATION NOTES

National
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APPROPRIATE INFORMATION SERVICES FOR AGRICULTURE

by
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In 1862, the land-grant colleges were established by Congress to promote liberal and practical education, especially in agriculture and "mechanics" to students from all levels of society. Together with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the faculty of the land-grant institutions form the backbone of agricultural research in the United States. Cornell University is the land-grant institution of New York State, and its agricultural program is generally regarded highly in the country. The Albert R. Mann Library, the land-grant component of the Cornell University Library System, is the largest academic agricultural library in the country with a collection second only to that of the National Agricultural Library. Cornell is one of the 33 land-grant members of the Association for Research Libraries.

Faculty in the agricultural sciences seem to underutilize information resources in their research. If library services were made more convenient and accessible and, if faculty changed its information resources use pattern, the quality of research would benefit as a result. The Albert R. Mann Library has received a grant from the Association of Research Libraries to study the use of current library resources by agricultural faculty. This was awarded under the ARL/OMS Public Services in Research Libraries Project, supported by the General Electric Foundation.

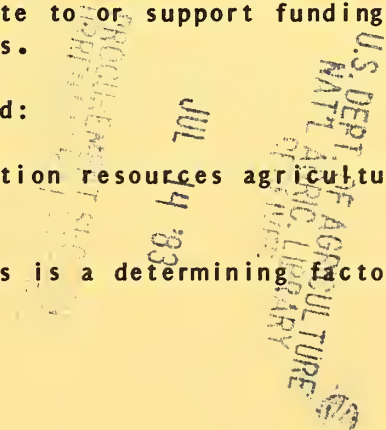
Purpose and Objectives

Research faculty in the agricultural sciences rely heavily on conferences, interpersonal communications, and printed materials that come into their office for their information gathering. Little data exists to show how agricultural scientists gather information, nor what kinds of library resources they use and why. We also have not systematically learned what they are not using and why.

The hypothesis of this study is that if library public services and resources were made more convenient and accessible, agricultural faculty would change their pattern of the use of library materials and would contribute to or support funding for the continuation of expanded services.

Five objectives have been established:

1. To describe the kinds of information resources agricultural faculty use in their research.
2. To analyze whether ease of access is a determining factor in the types of resources used.



3. To analyze what appropriate library resources these researchers are not using (due to difficulty of access).
4. To measure whether easier access would improve use of library resources.
5. To determine whether these services were significant enough to researchers that they would underwrite their cost (for example, by writing them into their grant proposal budgets).

Methodology

To begin the study, the faculty in the College of Agriculture will be asked to complete a survey instrument on their library materials use pattern for a specific research project in which they are currently engaged. Faculty will be asked to report on their use of such resources as computer literature searches, standard indexes and abstracts, the interlibrary loan system, and the services of a reference librarian. Development of the questionnaire will be completed by the end of Summer 1983, and administered to the 450 faculty in the College of Agriculture by mail during Fall semester. A 75% response rate will be required. During late Fall semester, the upcoming program of expanded public service for faculty will be publicized, encouraging researchers to take advantage of the program.

During Spring 1984 semester, the new services will be implemented. Reference questions will be answered by phone or in person, and all appropriate computer and print resources will be used without charge to the requestor. Instead of simply directing faculty to sources of information, librarians will compile information requested and student assistants will deliver it to the faculty member's office or lab. Materials not available in the Cornell system will be obtained through the most expeditious means, without charge to the requestor. The reference department will keep records of all services provided to agricultural faculty.

At the end of the trial period, another survey instrument will be administered to the faculty. It will gather information about the faculty's use of the expanded services, their level of awareness of the program, their evaluation of services received, their willingness to pay for or subsidize these services in the future, and where applicable, their reasons for not using services offered. During Fall semester 1984, the results of the survey will be analyzed and compared to the pattern of library materials used in the original survey. A final report would be completed by December 1984.

Anticipated Outcomes


The following changes in the use of information resources are anticipated:

1. Provision of specialized services to agricultural research faculty will change their library use patterns and effect the variety of information resources they use in their research.

2. The provision of specialized services will continue, through direct payment by faculty, subsidization by department, or increases in the library budget (due to pressure by faculty).

This study should result in benefits to both the Mann Library and other land-grant libraries. Among the results anticipated of benefit to the profession are:

1. Systematic identification of the information resource needs an agricultural science faculty.
2. Development of a model of public services important to promote to faculty in the agricultural sciences.

In addition, it is anticipated that the extended library and information services will improve the quality of research by agricultural faculty. 

MICROCOMPUTER FAIR FOR THE ANNUAL ASSOCIATES MEETING

In conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Associates of the National Agricultural Library, NAL will be hosting a Microcomputer Fair. The purpose is to give us an opportunity to demonstrate some of the many ways microcomputers can be utilized for doing both library and administrative tasks.

NAL has been acquiring a number of microcomputers, related peripheral equipment and software packages. They are used in a variety of ways by different units within the organization and by those associated with NAL activities. The equipment includes the Alpha Micro Computer, IBM Personal Computers, Apples, a TRS-80, an Osbourne portable computer, a Dest OCR reader, a video image recorder, "smart" modems, and many different software packages.

The Fair will be held on July 14, 1983, Room 1400, NAL Building, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The various pieces of equipment will be arranged around the room and attendees will be able to freely move from station to station to view the various demonstrations. Several micros will also be set up for personal tutorial sessions.



NEWS FROM THE FIELD

CONSERVATION TILLAGE INFORMATION CENTER

Helping people with conservation tillage questions get to good information sources is the goal of the Conservation Tillage Information Center (CTIC). Conservation tillage is defined as those methods of farming that maintain adequate plant cover on the land to conserve vital national resources of soil, water, labor, energy, capital, and the economic vitality of American agriculture.

The results of research and field experiences on conservation tillage will be collected from private industries, land-grant colleges, government agencies, conservation districts, farmers, and ranchers.

The Center will have a

- telephone reference service
- monthly newsletter: Conservation Tillage News
- listing of resource people
- reference library
- rental library for slide-tapes and films

The start-up date for operations was January 3, 1983. Center headquarters is at the National Association of Conservation District's Washington, D.C. office.

CONSERVATION TILLAGE INFORMATION CENTER SERVICES


REFERRAL TO RESOURCE PEOPLE, SPEAKERS
or PUBLICATIONS
CTIC Field Office
Executive Park, #104
2010 Inwood Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46815
(219) 422-3373

Information on or rental of SLIDE TAPES AND FILMS

NACD Service Department
408 E. Main St.
League City, TX 77573
(713) 332-3402


CONSERVATION TILLAGE NEWS

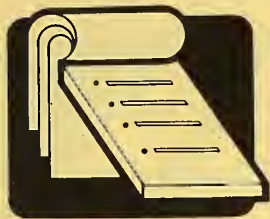
CTIC Editor, NACD
1025 Vermont Ave., NW, #730
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 347-5995

Send news and regular feature items by the first of the month for mid-month publication. Items for the events calendar should be sent 2 months in advance. 

AASCARR

The American Association of State Colleges of Agriculture and Renewable Resources (AASCARR) represents 65 public higher education institutions offering baccalaureate degrees in agriculture or renewable natural resources. Characterized by their excellent undergraduate teaching programs, AASCARR institutions grant nearly 20 percent of the undergraduate degrees in agriculture and renewable resources. Many AASCARR institutions have well developed research programs, with several offering the master's and doctoral degrees. A full range of public service programs are offered through AASCARR institutions to the agricultural communities in their regions. Existing for the most part outside of the Federal land-grant system, AASCARR institutions are primarily State supported.

For more information about AASCARR, contact the
Office of Agriculture, Renewable Resources
and Rural Development
American Association of State Colleges
and Universities
One Dupont Circle/Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 293-7070 



NEW SERIALS RECEIVED AT NAL

ANNUAL RESEARCH REPORTS OF THE KOREA
INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL SCIENCES.
Kyungii-Do, Korea. a. Vol. 1 (1981)-
SF95.H344

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT: New York, NY,
Environmental Measurements Laboratory.
s-a. (May 1981)-
QH543.5.A1E6


FLORASCOPE. Glen Ellyn, IL. Mary Lou
Parks, editor and publisher. m. Vol.
1, No. 1 (1981)-

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND LIBRARIES.
Chicago, IL, Library and Information
Technology Association. q. Vol. 1,
No. 1 (Mar. 1982)-
Z699.A11542

JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE.
Blacksburg, VA, Horticultural Research
Institute. q. Vol. 1, No. 1 (Mar.
1983)-
SB1.J66

NEW ZEALAND SCIENCE ABSTRACTS. Science
Information Division, Department of
Scientific and Industrial Research.
Wellington, N.Z. a. Vol. 1 (1980)-
Q1.A3N4

RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS. Washington,
D.C., National Telephone Cooperative
Association. q. Vol. 1, No. 1 (Winter
1982)-
TK6001.R8

SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNAL OF BOTANY.
Pretoria, Bureau for Scientific
Publications, Foundation for Education,
Science, and Technology. 4 x year.
Vol. 1, No. 1/2 (1982)-
QK1.S69 




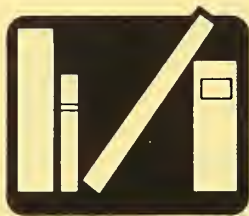
NEW PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE

GOAT EXTENSION HANDBOOK: DISEASES,
FEEDING, MILK, MANAGEMENT, BREEDING,
ANATOMY. George F. W. Haenlein, Donald L.
Ace. Newark, Delaware, Cooperative
Extension Service, University of Delaware,
1983. Various paging. Unpriced. Request
from Cooperative Extension Service,
University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19711.

HYDROLOGY, EROSION, AND WATER-QUALITY
STUDIES IN THE SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS
RESEARCH WATERSHED, SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA,
1961-78. Chickasha, Oklahoma, Water
Quality and Watershed Laboratory,
Agricultural Research Service, U.S.
Department of Agriculture, 1983. 175 p.
(Agricultural Reviews and Manuals.
ARM-S-29/February 1983.) Free. Request
from Water Quality and Watershed Research
Laboratory, P. O. Box 400, Chickasha, OK
73018.

AN INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE
PAYMENT-IN-KIND PROGRAM. Washington, D.C.,
Economic Research Service, U.S. Department
of Agriculture, 1983. 22 p. Free. Order
from U.S. Department of Agriculture, EMS
Information (PIK), Room 4309-South Bldg.,
Washington, D.C. 20250.

MEAT DISTRIBUTION PATTERNS IN SIX SOUTHERN
METRO AREAS. Allen J. Baker, Lawrence A.
Duewer. Washington, D.C., National
Economics Division, Economic Research
Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture,
1983. 19 p. (Agricultural Economic Report
Number 498). Paper \$8.50; microfiche
\$4.50. Copies may be ordered from National
Technical Information Service, 5285 Port
Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. 



NEW BIBLIOGRAPHIES

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SOILS INFORMATION FROM THE SOUTH PACIFIC. R. J. Morrison. Suva, Fiji, Pacific Information Centre and Institute of Natural Resources, 1982. 383-445 p. PIC Selected Bibliography No. 1. Free. Request from publisher. (NAL Call No: Z5074.5.S7M6).

COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL ENERGY CONSERVATION BIBLIOGRAPHY. 36 citations. Springfield, IL, Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs. 4 p. Free. Request from Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, Community Energy Conservation Program, 325 W. Adams/4th Floor, Springfield, IL 62706. Telephone: (217) 785-2264.

HEALTH MAINTENANCE THROUGH FOOD AND NUTRITION: A GUIDE TO INFORMATION SOURCES. Helen D. Ullrich. Detroit, MI, Gale Research Co., 1981. 305 p. Health Affairs Information Guide Series V. 7. ISBN 0810315009. \$36.00 (NAL Call No: Z6663.N9U44 F&N B-3249).

THE HORSE, A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BRITISH BOOKS, 1851-1976. With a narrative commentary on the role of the horse in British social history, as revealed by the contemporary literature. Anne Grimshaw. Phoenix, AZ, Oryx Press, 1982. 474 p. Price not available. ISBN 089774067X. Order from publisher. (NAL Call No: SF284.G7G7).

HUMAN DIET AND NUTRITION. Kay Rodgers. Washington, D.C., Science Reference Section, Science and Technology Division, Library of Congress, 1981. 18 p. (LC Science Tracer Bullet TB 81-16.) Free. Request from publisher. (NAL Call No: Z6663.N9R64).

MUNG BEANS: NUTRITION VALUE (JAN. 72-OCT. 81). 70 citations from the Food Science and Technology Abstracts Database. Storrs, CT, New England

Research Application Center. (PB 82-855644.) Price Code: PC No. 1 MF NO1. Order from NTIS, U.S. Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22151. (NAL Call No: Z5074.M8 5M9).

REVEGETATION INFORMATION APPLICABLE TO MINING SITES IN NORTHERN CANADA. Everett B. Peterson and N. Merle Peterson. Ottawa, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, 1977. 405 p. (Environmental Studies No. 3.) ISBN 0662010361. Order from publisher. (NAL Call No: Z5074.R4P4).

QUICK BIBLIOGRAPHIES

The bibliographies in this series are primarily computerized online or batch bibliographies emanating from searches performed by the NAL Reference Staff in response to customer requests. Searches are selected for inclusion based on the currency of the topic, interest among clientele, relative length, and probable value to a larger audience. All titles in this series will be listed for 6 months. Revisions or updates will be renumbered and reannounced. Only one copy of a title will be sent; however, requestors may make copies. To request a copy of a Quick Bibliography send the title, series number, and a return addressed label to:

Reference Section, Room 111
National Agricultural Library
Beltsville, MD 20705

NAL—Q.B.—83-26. ALLELOPATHY: THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF CHEMICALS PRODUCED BY ONE PLANT UPON ANOTHER, 1979-FEBRUARY 1983. 155 citations from AGRICOLA. Searched by Henry Gilbert. April 1983.

NAL—Q.B.—83-27. EFFECTS OF ELECTRICITY OR MAGNETISM ON PLANTS, 1970-1982. 272 citations from AGRICOLA. Searched by Charles N. Bebee. May 1983.

NAL—Q.B.—83-28. EFFECTS OF SOUND OR SONICATION ON PLANTS, 1970-1982. 83 citations from AGRICOLA. Searched by Charles N. Bebee. May 1983.



NAL PROJECTS AND POLICIES

ALA-TV CONFERENCE

NAL will be serving as a satellite reception center for the June 28, 1983, American Library Association (ALA) teleconference from Los Angeles. The broadcast will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (EDT) in the lobby of the National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, MD.

- Eugene M. Farkas, Head
Educational Resources
Staff, NAL
(301) 344-3778

ARID AND DRYLANDS FARMING

An agreement has been concluded with the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) to develop a retrospective bibliographic file on dryland and arid land farming. An immediate action will be the creation of a tape from AGRICOLA covering 1970 to date to be used as a base instrument in merging, weeding, and adding citations from five other machine readable files.

- Wallace C. Olsen, Chief
Field & Special Programs
NAL
(301) 344-3834

EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS

The acquisition of a 20,000 volume regional lending library is being explored in conjunction with the Extension Service, USDA. Located at Rutgers University, the library has provided reference service to the 13 States of Cooperative Extension's Northeast Region since 1969. The acquisition could be a significant forward step in the context of a projected comprehensive national

collection of 4-H and Extension publications. The North Central Region has already contributed data on over 3,600 publications via electronic transmission of computerized information from Ames, Iowa to Beltsville, Maryland.

- Eugene M. Farkas, Head
Educational Resources Staff
NAL
(301) 344-3778

MICROFILMING OF AG DOCS

Purdue University and the University of Missouri libraries have indicated a wish to participate in this year's efforts for filming of their agricultural publications in cooperation with NAL. Investigations and discussions have been held concerning the extension of the microfilming of agricultural documents from 1970 and subsequent years with those institutions which had previously filmed with NAL.

- Wallace C. Olsen, Chief
Field & Special Programs
NAL
(301) 344-3834

ASSOCIATES NAL, INC. - ANNUAL MEETING

Trish Fineran of the USDA Information Technology Center will be the guest speaker at the annual lunch and meeting of the Associates NAL, Inc. on Thursday, July 14, 1983. The lunch and meeting will be at the Holiday Inn, I-95 and U.S. 1, Beltsville, MD. A Microcomputer Fair will be held at the National Agricultural Library, Room 1402, following the meeting. Cost of the luncheon is \$10.00 per person; reservations should be sent to the Executive Secretary, Associates NAL, Inc., Room 1402, NAL Bldg., 10301 Baltimore Blvd., Beltsville, MD 20705. There is no charge for the Microcomputer Fair.



AGRICULTURE DATEBOOK

June 26-29: AMERICAN DAIRY SCIENCE ASSOCIATION. University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI. Contact: Calude J. Cruse, Exec. Sec., 309 W. Clark Street, Champaign, IL 61820.

June 26-30: AMERICAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY. Iowa State University, Ames, IA. Contact: R. J. Tarleton, Exec. V.P., 3340 Pilot Knob Road, St. Paul, MN 55121.

July 17-21: AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. New York Hilton and Sheraton Center, NY. Contact: Russell G. Rongren, Dir. Bus. Div., 930 N. Meacham Road, Schaumburg, IL 60196.

July 30-August 4: AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION. Opryland, Nashville, TN. Contact: Ken R. Bader, Chief Exec. Off., Box 27300, Craig Road, St. Louis, MO 63141.

July 31-August 3: "RESOURCE INFORMATION FOR CONSERVATION DECISIONS." 38TH ANNUAL MEETING. SOIL CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA. Parkview Hilton Hotel, Hartford, CT. Contact: Max Schnepf, Ankeny, IA 50021. Telephone: (501) 289-2331.

July 31-August 3: AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION. Purdue University Lafayette, IN. Contact: Sydney C. James, Sec.-Treas., Dept. Economics, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011.

August 9-10: POULTRY SCIENCE ASSOCIATION. University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Contact: Claude J. Cruse, Exec. Sec., 309 W. Clark Street, Champaign, IL 61820.

August 14-19: SOLAR WORLD CONGRESS. Perth, Western Australia. Congress Coordinator: Solar World Congress, Perth 1983, GPO Box X2275, Perth W.A. 6001 Australia.

August 14-19: AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY, CROP SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA AND SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA. Annual meetings, Washington, D.C. Contact: Washington Annual Meetings, ASA, CSSA, SSSA Headquarters Office, 677 South Segoe Road, Madison WI 53711.

September 10-14: INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES. 73rd Annual Meeting. Red Carpet Hotel, Milwaukee, WI.

September 19-20: 7TH INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL WOOD ENERGY FORUM. Nashville, TN. Contact: FPRS, 2801 Marshall Court, Madison, WI 53705.

October 2-6: PRODUCTIVITY IN THE INFORMATION AGE. Annual meeting of the American Society for Information Science. Crystal City, Arlington, VA. Contact: Edmond Sawyer, Conference Chairman, ASIS Headquarters, 1010 16th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. (202) 659-3644.

May 24-26, 1984: SYMPOSIUM ON THE HISTORY OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION. Columbia, MO. Contact: Douglas Helms, Historian, SCS-USDA, P. O. Box 2890, Washington, D.C. 20013.

September 17-21, 1984: THIRTEENTH WORLD CONGRESS ON DISEASES OF CATTLE. Durban, Republic of South Africa. Contact: Prof. R. I. Coubrough, Chairman, Scientific Programme Committee, P. O. Box 35333, Northcliff 2115, Republic of South Africa. ☒

AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES INFORMATION NOTES provides a channel of communication to technical information specialists, librarians, extension workers, researchers and scientists on agricultural information activities. It is published monthly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, MD 20705. Leila Moran, Editor. ☒